

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO DINING, BEACHES, SHOPPING, ARTS, RECREATION AND MORE

# SARASOTA<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE



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## ON THE BEACH

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STATE AND  
NATIONAL  
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# “I’m in the Mood For...”

Whether it’s Old Florida funky or seafood supreme, we have the restaurant for you.

| BY MARSHA FOTTLER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATHRYN BRASS PIPER, CHAD SPENCER, SALVATORE BRANCIFORT AND MATT MCCOURTNEY



Clockwise from top: enjoying a glass of wine; shrimp and grits; cheery shades of blue inside. Opposite page, from top: Diners at the Seafood Shack enjoy views of the Intracoastal; a pelican waits for its dinner.

## “I want Old Florida casual— but with good food.”

WHO DOESN'T WANT A PLACE where you can wear flip-flops, see squadrons of pelicans flying above sparkling blue water and order something simple, local and fresh? **The Seafood Shack**, a big, lively bar, grill and marina, is right on the Intracoastal Waterway at Marker 49 in the historic little fishing village of Cortez. It's been serving uncomplicated seafood dishes for 44 years to tourists and loyal locals. New owners have just completed a huge renovation, a lot of it behind the scenes, that's made it even better, right down to the funky mermaid art and fish nets in the dining room.

The extensive menu includes a grouper Reuben sandwich (market price), onion-crust salmon (\$19), beer-battered cod fish 'n' chips (\$16), oysters offered several ways, classic burger (\$9), shrimp and grits (\$18), salads and all sorts of sides, from collards to pineapple coleslaw. And if you've been out fishing with one of their four preferred charter fishing companies and you reel in the big one, they'll even grill it up for you on the spot. (You've got to clean and fillet your catch first.) Breakfast, lunch and dinner—and, yes, you can come by boat. 4110 127th St. W., Cortez. (941) 794-1235.



### PLUS

**MAR VISTA DOCKSIDE** Eat inside the 1912 cottage or on the shady wooden deck with bay views. The menu features simple, fresh fish (including a great black grouper sandwich) and more. Lunch and dinner. 760 BROADWAY ST., LONGBOAT KEY. (941) 383-2391.

**OWEN'S FISH CAMP** Dine inside a vintage downtown cottage or on the porch. Favorites on the Southern-style menu include excellent seafood, fried green tomato salad with buttermilk dressing and fried berry pies. Dinner. 516 BURNS LANE, SARASOTA. (941) 951-6936.

**STAR FISH COMPANY** Casual (really casual) outdoor seating at picnic tables on a dock. Everything is fresh, no-frills. Dig in and celebrate the sublime taste of local seafood prepared on the spot. Lunch and dinner. Cash only. 12306 46TH AVE. W., CORTEZ. (941) 794-1243.